



SOUTHEAST FISHERY BULLETIN

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TRIP LIMIT REDUCED TO 1,500 POUNDS PER DAY OFF THE FLORIDA EAST COAST FOR VESSELS COMMERCIALY FISHING FOR SPANISH MACKEREL

Beginning 6:00 a.m. February 1, 2005, the daily vessel trip limit is reduced to 1,500 pounds in the commercial fishery for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel in the southern zone off the Florida east coast. NOAA Fisheries reduced the trip limit after determining that 75 percent, or 2,715,000 pounds, of the adjusted quota (3,620,000 pounds) had been reached. The 1,500-pound trip limit is a daily landing/possession limit that applies to commercial vessels fishing for Spanish mackerel in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) between the Florida/Georgia and Miami-Dade/Monroe County, Florida boundaries. Under Florida regulations, a similar 1,500-pound trip limit is effective in adjoining state waters.

The 1,500-pound trip limit will remain in effect until the adjusted quota is reached or through the end of 2004/2005 fishing year, March 31, 2005, whichever occurs first. If commercial landings for the management area (New York - Florida) reach the adjusted quota, the trip limit will be reduced to 500 pounds per day through March 31, 2005. On April 1, 2005, the beginning of the 2005/2006 fishing year, the daily trip limit will increase automatically to 3,500 pounds for every day of the week until

unlimited daily harvest/landing begins on December 1, 2005.

Vessels fishing in the EEZ under trip limits and quotas must possess a commercial federal Spanish mackerel permit. Quotas, trip limits, and permits, implemented under the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP), are necessary to protect the Atlantic group Spanish mackerel resource.

NOAA Fisheries is dedicated to protecting and preserving the nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to customers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.